



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers®
Huntsville Center

Chemical Demilitarization

Background

The Department of Defense was directed by Congress through Public Law 99-145 as the government agency responsible for destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile. To comply with treaty agreements and congressional mandate, destruction of these weapons must be completed by 2007.

Responsibility

The Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) was created in February 2003 and combines the demilitarization and storage functions under a single organization. The Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PM ACWA) is responsible for the disposal of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo, Colorado and Blue Grass, Kentucky. Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers agent for facility design and facility construction of chemical demilitarization facilities. The U.S. Army Field Support Command, Rock Island, Illinois, is the contracting agency.

Program Status

Incineration was selected as the baseline disposal process. Disposal operations were completed in November 2000 and closure activities have been completed at the pilot facility on Johnston Atoll (JACADS) in the South Pacific. Disposal operations are successfully underway at Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah, the first of eight facilities in the continental United States.

- *Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.* — The Army awarded a contract for construction and operation of an incineration facility in February 1996 to the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, now The Washington Group. Construction began in June 1997 and was completed in June 2001. Agent destruction operations began in August 2003.

- *Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.* — The Army awarded a contract for construction and operation of an incineration facility in February 1997 to Raytheon Demilitarization Company, now The Washington Group. Construction began in June 1997 and was completed in August 2001.

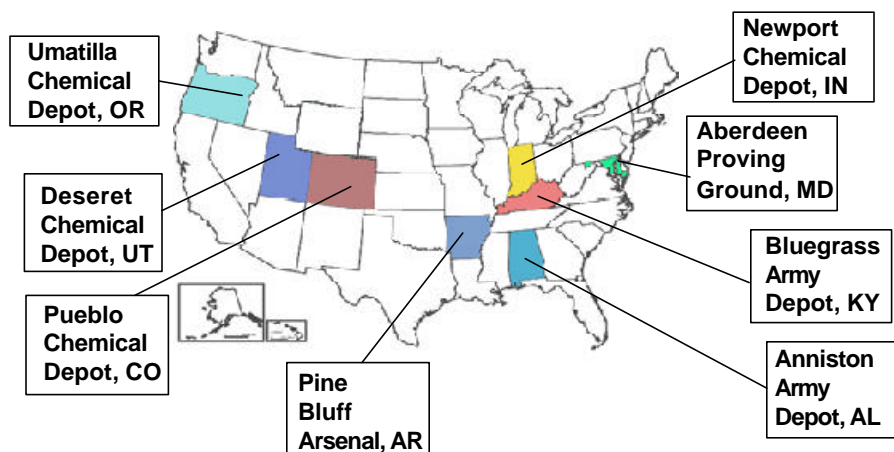
- *Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.* — The Army awarded a contract for construction and operation of an incineration facility in July 1997 to Raytheon Demilitarization Company, now The Washington Group. Construction began in February 1999 and was completed in November 2002.



Completed chemical weapons
incineration facility

- **Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.** — Alternative technologies for disposal (neutralization followed by secondary processing) have been chosen for these two sites. In October 1998, a contract for the Aberdeen facility was awarded to Bechtel National, Inc. The Department of Defense subsequently approved a plan to accelerate destruction of the chemical agent. Agent destruction operations began in April 2003 and are currently underway. In February 1999, a contract for the Newport facility was awarded to Parsons Infrastructure. An accelerated destruction plan for Newport was approved, and construction of those facilities was completed in June 2003. Agent destruction operations are scheduled to begin in 2004.

- **Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.** — Public law 104-208 established the Assembled Chemical Weapons Assessment (ACWA) program to study alternative technologies. In July 2002 the Department of Defense approved neutralization followed by biotreatment as the technology for the Pueblo facility. A systems contract was awarded in September 2002 to Bechtel National, Inc. Neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation (SCWO) was selected as the technology for the Blue Grass facility. A systems contract was awarded in June 2003 to the Bechtel-Parsons team. Design activities are ongoing at both Pueblo and Blue Grass.



Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Program

- **Shchuch'ye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility** — Together with other countries, the U.S. government has committed to assist the Russian Federation in the destruction of its chemical weapons. In December 1996, the Huntsville Center awarded a contract to manage, conduct research and development, design, and construct facilities to assist Russia in executing its chemical weapons destruction program. Design is expected to be completed by December 2004. Construction is underway and expected to be completed in late 2008.



Fact Sheet Information:
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